

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 L-03 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 ICAE-00 PA-02
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 /090 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/RPP/L:JMO'GRADY:STT
APPROVED BY ARA/RPP:SMQUIGG
ARA/AND:RSTEVEN (INFO)
S/IL:DGOOD (INFO)

-----109855 162013Z /64

O 161948Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 207700

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION RIGHTS - MEANY LETTER TO
PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: STATE 206011

1. REFTEL INCORRECTLY STATED THAT AUGUST 10 LETTER
FROM GEORGE MEANY TO PRESIDENT CARTER HAD BEEN
TRANSMITTED TO POST BY ICA. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT: AS YOU MAY KNOW, TWO OF OUR
VICE PRESIDENTS, THOMAS GLEASON AND SOL CHAIKIN,
RECENTLY VISITED CHILE, WHERE THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPEESS TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET THE AFL-CIO'S STRONG
INTEREST IN THE RESTORATION OF FULL HUMAN RIGHTS,
INCLUDING TRADE UNION RIGHTS, IN THAT COUNTRY.

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SPECIFICALLY, THEY CALLED FOR THE FREE ELECTION OF
LABOR LEADERS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION; FREEDOM
OF ASSEMBLY WITHOUT PRIOR GOVERNMENT PERMISSION; THE
RESTORATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND THE RIGHT TO
STRIKE, AND AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF DEMOCRATIC
LABOR LEADERS. WE ARE AWAITING AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE
FROM THE PINOCHET REGIME.

3. BECAUSE OF YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THAT VICE PRESIDENTS GLEASON AND CHAIKIN REPORTED ON THEIR TRIP TO OUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING IN CHICAGO. THE COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED THAT UNLESS THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT MOVES SUBSTANTIALLY TOWARD OBSERVANCE OF THESE BASIC RIGHTS, DEMANDED BY THE WORKERS AND THE PEOPLE OF CHILE, IT MUST FACE GRAVE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES.

4. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. ON NOVEMBER 26, IN LIMA, PERU, THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS(ORIT), IN WHICH OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL PARTICIPATE. IN THE ABSENCE OF A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT PINOCHET BY THAT DATE, THE AFL-CIO WILL BE PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH OUR TRADE UNION BROTHERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN MOUNTING AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED REPRESSION OF ITS WORKERS.

5. THE CONTENT OF MY LETTER TO YOU IS BEING CONVEYED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHILEAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS TO THE PROPER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. SINCERELY, GEORGE MEANY, PRESIDENT.
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UNQUOTE

6. EMBASSY COMMENTS AND REACTION APPRECIATED. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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